

FORM B – BUILDING

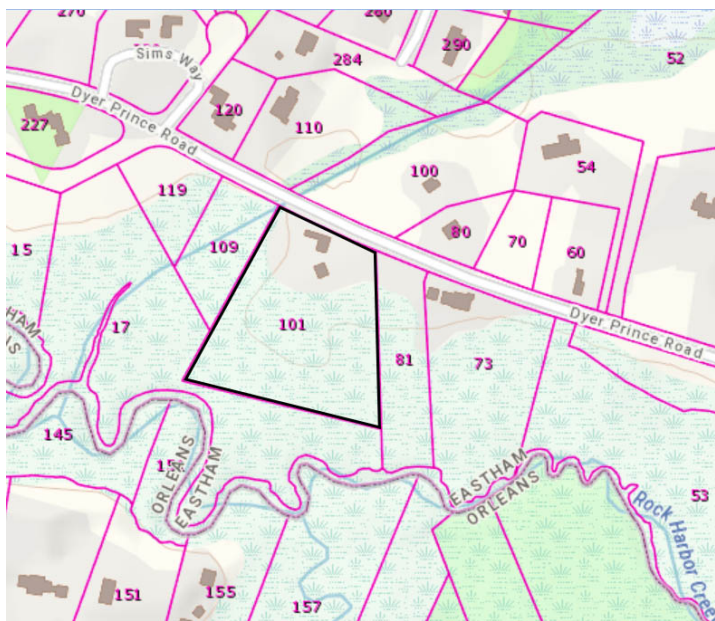
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View from

Locus Map (north at top)



Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

19-102

ORLEANS

EAS.189
EAS.149

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
South Eastham

Address: 101 Dyer Prince Road

Historic Name: Doane – Prince - Drake House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1830

Source: deeds, vital records, censuses

Style/Form: no style/Cape Cod

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Barn, ca. 2000

Garage, ca. 2000

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Façade fenestration altered, porch added, 20th c.

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 2.94

Setting: The property is located on a historic road among other 18th- and 19th-century houses. More recently, large lots have been subdivided with the addition of mid-20th-century dwellings. The property backs up on a salt marsh, Rock Harbor Creek and the Orleans town line.

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EASTHAM

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Doane – Prince - Drake House is a story-and-a-half wood frame single dwelling that appears to have been built in ca. 1830 with a “three-quarter cape” plan, off-center chimney and a four-bay front façade. The façade has been altered, moving the entrance from in front of the chimney, bumping out the single window bay west of the chimney and adding a porch. Fenestration on the east end of the house is essentially intact with two windows on each ground and attic stories but with a third window added in the attic; shingled hoods were added above the original windows similar to those found at the Davis & Alice Smith House at 60 Dyer Prince Road (EAS.186). Two one-story ells are attached in sequence to the west end of the house. The existence of chimneys in both cited in the 1996 MHC Building Form suggest they had kitchen functions. A barn and two-car garage have been constructed behind the house in recent years.

The house is sited in the center of the property’s road frontage. It is situated very close to the road with heavy foliate screening. A driveway enters east of the house and terminates at the barn behind the house. Beyond a rear yard is a salt marsh bordering on Rock Harbor Creek and the Orleans town line.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Judging by how early deeds identify abutters, the house numbered 101 Dyer Prince Road was probably built on 2.5 acres that master mariner Heman Doane Jr. (1790-1823) bought from Henry Harding in 1829. Doane, the son of Heman Doane Sr. (1764-1846) and Rebecca Young (1766-1837), married the widow Pamela Gross Smith of Truro in 1827. The couple may be listed in their own household in 1830 and are certainly in this neighborhood by 1840.¹ In 1850 Heman Doane was farming and is credited with \$1299 in real property. He lived with his wife and seven children; the three eldest, Marshall, Joshua, and Micah, are listed as being at “sea.” The 1858 map attaches the name Doane to the house on this site.

Heman Doane died in 1863 and left his estate to his widow, who in 1864 sold 101 Dyer Prince Road to James Prince of Truro.² She and her youngest daughter Cordelia moved into the household of Sylvanus Freeman, and by 1869 they moved to San Francisco, where sons Joshua and Marshall were already living; by 1874 the San Francisco directory daughters Susan and Mehitabel and son Micah were also in that city. James Prince was born in Liverpool, England, in 1817 and in 1839 married Chloe Rich, the daughter of Ephraim and Thankful Dyer Rich, in 1839.³ In 1850 he was a mariner living in Truro with his wife and children Hannah M., Melissa, Chloe N., and Benjamin Dyer Prince. Whether the name for the road came from his name is not known. Chloe Rich Prince died in 1851, and in 1852 James Prince married Betsey F. Higgins, the daughter of Ephraim and Deborah Young Higgins, who lived at 73 Dyer Prince Road. The family was living in Truro in 1855 and 1860 but had moved to 101 Dyer Prince Road by 1865. By then Prince was listed as a master mariner, and he and his wife shared the house with son Benjamin Dyer Prince from Prince’s first marriage and children Mary E. and James A. M., born in 1853 and 1859.

By 1870 James Prince was fifty-three years old and had turned to fishing for a living, and he lived in the house with his wife and children. He died in 1878, and his will left his estate to his wife as long as she remained unmarried, and at her death his remaining estate was to be equally divided among his six children. Prince’s will also states his wish “that the place I now live on may go to my son James A. Prince (if he wishes it) at a fair valuation,” and should he decline the property was to be offered to James’s five siblings. The 1880 Eastham map attaches the name “B. Prince” to the house (for the widow), and she is shown alone in the household in the 1880 census. Son James married English immigrant Eliza M. Phillips in 1883 but died of consumption in 1890. In 1900 Betsey Higgins Prince was living at 101 Dyer Prince Road with her late son James’s son Delmar Evans Prince. Also in the neighborhood, at 480 Dyer Prince Road, was son Benjamin Dyer Prince, who had worked for years as

¹ Henry Harding to Heman Doane Jr., 2 January 1829, BCD 3:265. There were two Heman Doanes Seniors and two Heman Doane Juniors in Eastham. This Heman Doane Sr. and Jr., descended from John Doane (c 1738-1800) and his wife Betsey Snow. Another Heman Doane (1789-1842), son of John Doane’s younger brother Isaiah (ca 1742-1830), married Mehitabel Butler in 1807 and had a son Heman (1808-91), who never married.

² Pamela [sic] Doane to James Prince, Truro, 16 March 1864, BCD 86:167.

³ Thankful Dyer might have been distantly related to Pamela Gross Smith; her paternal grandmother was Deliverance Dyer of Truro.

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a jeweler in Attleboro before returning to South Eastham between 1884 and 1900; he was living alone and farming in the neighborhood in 1910 and 1920 and died in Eastham in 1923.

Betsey F. Higgins Prince died at home in May 1909, and within days her children and other heirs sold the house, land, and two henhouses to James Bradley Steele, a Bridge Road neighbor who acted as a sales agent for several properties here. In March 1911 he sold 101 Dyer Prince Road to Edgar A. Drake of Attleboro.⁴ Born in Attleboro in 1849, Edgar Alphonso Drake farmed at the beginning of this working life but had entered the city's jewelry industry by 1880. In 1881 he married Sylvia W. Tucker, a native of Providence, Rhode Island, and in 1900 he was a jewelry polisher and living with his wife and daughter Augusta Celinda, a typist. Sylvia Drake died in 1906 and Edgar Drake in 1917, and daughter Augusta, who married manufacturer Charles Leroy Holbrook in 1907, inherited the property. She and her husband owned it until they died, and the property then passed to their niece Marion W. Alden. In 1997 a representative of Alden's estate sold 101 Dyer Road to Robert E. and Nancy S. Cleary of Easton, Connecticut, who owned and occupied the house until 2013. The owner of record in 2020, Nicholas A. Debs, acquired the property from Robert Cleary in 2013.⁵

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MAPS

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⁴ Benjamin D. Prince, Melissa Siders, Chloe A. Ryder, Mary E. Hill, Delmer Prince, Sumner Prince, all MA, and Ina May Shepard, Melton Mills NH, to James B. Steele, 2 June 1909, BCD 296:142; James B. Steele to Edgar A. Drake, Attleboro, 11 March 1911, BCD 310:294. "Orleans," Yarmouth Register, 18 March 1911, 8, reported that Steele had sold "his summer home, known as the James Prince estate," to Drake, while the Sandwich Observer, 31 March 1911, reported the same sale but did not identify the house as Steele's summer home. As he lived on Bridge Road, it seems unlikely that it was.

⁵ Augusta D. Holbrooke to David L. Mead, Orleans, 5 November 1949, BCD 733:393; David L. Mead, Orleans, to Charles L. and Augusta D. Holbrook, 5 November 1949, BCD 733:394; Steven R. Clark, Union ME, representative of estate Marion W. Alden, Whitefield ME, to Robert E. and Nancy S. Cleary, Easton CT, 31 December 1997, BCD 11147:135; Robert E. Cleary, Woodstock CT, to Nicholas A. Debs, New York NY, 8 October 2013, BCD 27768:228. The house, barn, and shed are depicted on "Plan of Land Situated in Eastham, MA, Prepared for Nicholas A. Debs," 18 December 2013, BCP 652:53.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2019 unless otherwise noted)



View from east.



View of wings from west.

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View of outbuildings from SE.